Message Text

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O 181130Z MAY 76 FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7695 AMEMBASSY OSLO

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 2789

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: KISSINGER VISIT - PRESS COMMENTARY

INDEPENDENT DAGENS NYHETER CARRIED THE FOLLOWING STORY

ON THE SECRETARY'S IMPENDING VISIT:

"EUROPEAN COMMUNISM PRINCIPAL TOPIC FOR KISSINGER"

"THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS' ATTITUDE TOWARD COMMUNISM IN SOUTHERN EUROPE WILL BE THE HOTTEST ISSUE WHEN SECRETARY KISSINGER ARRIVES

IN SWEDEN ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT. THIS VISIT MARKS THE FINAL

STAGE IN THE NORMALIZATION OF SWEDISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

"THESE RELATIONS HAVE BEEN COOL. IT ALL STARTED WITH VIETNAM.

IN 1968, OLOF PALME WALKED WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR

IN A DEMONSTRATION IN STOCKHOLM. AS A RESULT OF THIS, THE

AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN WAS CALLED HOME FOR

'CONSULTATIONS'.

"DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS SWEDISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS HAVE IMPROVED STEP BY STEP. THE FACT THAT KISSINGER ARRIVES IN STOCKHHOLM ON SUNDAY IS FINAL CONFIRMATION OF THE FACT THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS NOW ARE BACK TO NORMAL.

"FOLLOWING THE ARRIVAL ONSUNDAY, OLOF PALME WILL HOST A DINNER IN A RURAL ATMOSPHERE. A NUMBER OF CABINET MINISTERS WILL ALSO BE PRESENT.

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"THE AMERICAN DELEGATION IS COMING FROM A NATO MEETING IN OSLO

AND THERE ARE SOME 40 PERSONS TRAVELING WITH THE SECRETARY, INCLUDING HIS CHIEF ADVISER SONNENFELT. THE SECRETARY IS ALSO ACCOMPANIED BY SOME 20 REPORTERS. IN THE DISCUSSIONS ON SUNDAY EVENING, EUROPEAN QUESTIONS WILL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT. PRIME MINISTER PALME RECENTLY VISITED MOSCOW AND HIS TALKS WITH KOSYGIN DEALT WITH ATTITUDES TOWARD COMMUNISM IN SOUTHERN EUROPE.

"SOMETHING SIMILAR IS EXPECTED FROM THE DISCUSSIONS WITH KISSINGER. THE UNITED STATES HAS WARNED AGAINST BRINGING COMMUNISTS INTO GOVERNMENT IN SOUTHERN EUROPE. SUCH ACTIONS COULD CAUSE THE UNITED STATES TO RE-ASSESS ITS RELATIONS WITH NATO.

"IT IS POSSIBLE THAT PALME WILL GAIN A FEW DOMESTIC POLITICAL POINTS FROM KISSINGER'S VISIT. THE CONFRONTATION WITH THE UNITED STATES IS A THING OF THE PAST. MOST PEOPLE WELCOME THE NEW TURN OF EVENTS, EVEN IF SOME LEFTIST GROUPS ARE UNHAPPY. THE POLICE IS PLANNING EXTENSIVE SECURITY MEASURES TO PROTECT KISSINGER AND HIS DELEGATION. SECURITY MEASURES WILL BE SOMEWHAT LESS EXTENSIVE THAN WHEN PRESIDENT TITO RECENTLY VISITED PALME."

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